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The new roles of libraries and librarians: building bridges to new horizons

Daiga Šlahota

Rīga Stradiņš University Library, Rīga, Latvia

Abstract

Academic libraries are undergoing rapid transformation driven by digital change, evolving research practices and new expectations from students, researchers and institutions. This article examines the changing roles of libraries and librarians through two interconnected perspectives: insights from recent international literature on emerging professional identities, competencies, and responsibilities; and the practical experience of the Rīga Stradiņš University (RSU) Library, which illustrates how these trends materialise in a health-sciences academic environment. The article highlights developments in research support, information literacy, systematic reviews, scientific publishing, and digital transformation. It argues that librarians are increasingly embedded in research ecosystems, functioning as educators, data stewards, methodological partners, and contributors to scholarly communication. The RSU Library's achievements demonstrate how libraries can build bridges to new horizons by embracing collaboration, innovation, and sustained professional development.

Key words: information literacy; bibliometrics; libraries, medical; support of research; education, graduate.

Introduction

Academic libraries are experiencing a profound shift in their mission, identity, and strategic value. As higher education becomes increasingly digital, data-driven, and interdisciplinary, libraries are redefining their roles to meet emerging needs. Librarians are becoming “active partners in education and research” (1) and their work now integrates “digital resources, personalised services, and structured training” (1) into the academic environment.

This article synthesises current scholarly perspectives on the transformation of academic librarianship and presents the experience of the Rīga Stradiņš University Library as a case study of how these developments manifest in practice.

Evolving roles of libraries and librarians: insights from recent literature

Reinventing professional identity

Recent literature emphasises that librarianship is expanding beyond traditional service models. Ducas, Michaud-Oystryk and Speare (2) observe that “the dra-

matic transformation in higher education (...) and the unrelenting advances in technology have had a significant impact on the responsibilities of academic librarians”. Their work highlights librarians’ increasing involvement in research support, information literacy, systematic reviews, and scholarly communication.

Research data services

Safdar et al. demonstrate that libraries now support data across its entire lifecycle, noting that “libraries were engaged in providing different types of research data services such as identification, acquisition, management and preservation of research data” (3). This reflects institutional priorities around transparency, FAIR principles, and open science.

Sustaining innovation

Mathews (4) argues that innovation in libraries is not only disruptive but also incremental. “The sustaining innovation focuses on refining and improving existing services” he writes, emphasising stability and continuous improvement – an essential approach in academic environments where reliability is critical.

Address for correspondence: Daiga Šlahota, Rīga Stradiņš University Library, 16 Dzirciema iela, Rīga, LV-1007, Latvia.
E-mail: daiga.slahota@rsu.lv

Libraries as partners in research outputs

Okhovati *et al.* (1) describe librarians as “vital partners in the research outputs of institutions” contributing to information retrieval, data management, dissemination, and methodological support. Their extended analysis further notes that librarians support the entire research lifecycle, acting as connectors between academia and industry.

Competencies for the librarian of tomorrow

Nawar (5) envisions the future librarian as a technologically empowered professional who “harnesses digital tools to expand access to information”.

Bhatnagar (6) and Awan *et al.* (7) identify essential competencies, including:

- digital and technological skills;
- information literacy instruction;
- data management;
- communication and collaboration;
- adaptability and lifelong learning;
- trustworthiness and professional ethics.

Together, these studies portray a profession that is dynamic, interdisciplinary, and increasingly central to academic success.

RSU Library: experience and achievements

Institutional context

Rīga Stradiņš University is a leading health-sciences institution with over 12,000 students and more than 70 medical specialisations. The RSU Library functions as a modern academic support unit, integrating information resources, technologies, and user-centred services. It also serves as Latvia’s main medical library, providing methodological support for healthcare institutions nationwide.

The library maintains 37 databases (2025) and tools such as AMBOSS, Scopus AI, and Rayyan, demonstrating its commitment to digital innovation.

Research support services

Research support is a core strategic function. The library provides:

- consultations;
- seminars and webinars;
- guidance on systematic reviews;
- bibliometrics and research visibility;
- publication strategies.

In 2025, librarians delivered 287 consultations and supported 129 researchers. The library also maintains the PURE research information system, which includes over 16,000 publications and 1,400 researcher profiles.

Information literacy as a strategic function

Information literacy has evolved from individual sessions to a structured, accredited 32-hour course integrated into study programmes. The library delivers approximately 400 sessions and 900 academic hours annually, covering:

- information search;
- critical evaluation;
- evidence-based practice;
- interdisciplinary applications.

The uploaded document notes that these programmes support “lifelong learning” and include training for healthcare professionals.

Systematic and scoping reviews

Since 2021, the RSU Library has developed a specialised service for systematic and scoping reviews. Librarians contribute to:

- search strategy development;
- evidence identification;
- PRISMA methodology;
- screening and reference management.

In 2024, librarians contributed to four systematic and six scoping reviews; in 2025, to five systematic and four scoping reviews, including co authorship.

A major initiative is the Baltic German Summer School on Systematic Reviews (2025), organised by the RSU Library and attended by 25 participants.

Contributions to scientific publishing

Librarians increasingly participate as co-authors in peer-reviewed publications, contributing to literature searching, methodology, and compliance with standards. Recent topics include oncology, spirituality, digital competencies, and AI in healthcare.

This reflects the library’s integration into research teams and its growing scholarly presence.

Future directions

The RSU Library aims to deepen its integration into research and education by:

- expanding involvement in systematic reviews and publishing;

- embedding information literacy across all study programmes;
- strengthening international cooperation;
- advancing digital transformation through a new integrated system for digital resources and library management.

These priorities align with global trends in academic librarianship.

Conclusion

The transformation of academic libraries is multidimensional and ongoing. The literature demonstrates that librarians are becoming research partners, digital innovators, educators, and community leaders. The RSU Library exemplifies these developments through its strategic work in research support, information literacy, systematic reviews, and scholarly publishing. Librarians are evolving into “essential bridges between information, technology, and users in an increasingly complex knowledge environment”.

The future of academic librarianship lies in collaboration, continuous learning, and sustained innovation – building bridges to new horizons.

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Conflict of interest statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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The complexity of success: rethinking library system migration through staff experience

Lina Nesoviene

Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Library and Information Centre, Kaunas, Lithuania

Abstract

A library system migration is usually judged at go-live. This exploratory survey received 35 responses from librarians at three Lithuanian academic libraries about their experience of moving from Aleph to Alma. By institutional criteria the migration succeeded, yet staff experience was mixed: while some respondents regained confidence within six months, for many, adjustment took longer. The paper argues that institutional metrics and staff experience are two distinct currencies of success: one cannot be read from the other. If staff experience is not counted separately, the record of a migration remains incomplete, and libraries plan future change from a partial picture.

Key words: librarians; organizational innovation; adaptation, psychological; surveys and questionnaires.

Introduction

Success at go-live means the system is running. It does not tell the library how long staff took to work confidently again, what the change cost them, or what should be done differently next time. Few libraries evaluate a migration once it is complete (1), and a library cannot learn from major system change if it collects information about the system but not about the people who make it work.

A library-system migration is not only a technical implementation but an organisational change that reshapes everyday work and continues beyond go-live (2). The definition of information-systems success has long included user satisfaction and organisational impact, not only technical delivery (3). In library migration research, however, staff still appear as a factor rather than a subject: Yeh and Walter (4) list managing staff emotions among ten critical success factors; Boss and Beisler (5) record staff difficulty as counts in a table and identify additional training as the main response.

This study began with an observation: while leaders saw the migration as a success, staff were less sure it had felt like one. It examines how librarians at three Lithuanian academic libraries experienced the move from Aleph to Alma, and what success measured at go-live leaves out.

Method

This retrospective exploratory survey was designed with possible wider use among institutions migrating later to Alma and now serves as pilot work for a planned larger study. Data were collected from the librarians involved using a self-developed questionnaire of closed- and open-ended questions.

The migration took place in 2021-2022, and the survey was conducted in 2025, several years after go-live. Responses therefore rest on self-reported recall rather than observation at the time. In total, 35 librarians across the three libraries responded. Participation was voluntary and anonymous.

The questionnaire covered emotional difficulty, professional confidence, time needed to feel confident in Alma, forms of support, and openness in talking with colleagues or managers. It also used terms such as cognitive overload, loss of mastery and migration trauma as descriptive prompts rather than validated measures, following earlier work that treats putting experience into words as part of sensemaking (6).

Closed responses were summarised descriptively, using simple counts and percentages. Open responses were reviewed only to identify clear matches with closed categories; they were not analysed further for this article.

Address for correspondence: Lina Nesoviene, Library and Information Centre, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Eiveniu g. 6, Kaunas, LT-50162, Lithuania. E-mail: lina.nesoviene@lsmu.lt

Results

What did the institutional metrics show?

By the project criteria used at the participating institutions, the migration was considered technically successful: Alma went live on time, the required data were migrated, and core library functions were available. These were real and measurable achievements, visible shortly after go-live.

What did staff experience show?

The staff responses showed a different side of the same migration. Twelve of 35 respondents (34%) described the migration as very or extremely difficult. Fourteen respondents felt reasonably confident working in Alma within six months; the remaining 21 took longer, including six who were still not fully confident at the time of the survey, three to four years after go-live. The concept that resonated most often was loss of mastery, selected by 13 respondents. The most common emotions were confusion and anxiety, each reported by 15 respondents, followed by frustration and stress, reported by 13 and 9 respondents respectively. Ten respondents described feeling motivated or excited by the challenge.

Respondents reported different effects on professional confidence: 11 felt more competent after learning new skills, 10 reported a minor effect and recovered quickly, eight doubted their abilities for a while, and six reported no real effect.

Respondents also varied in how openly they discussed the migration. Only four of 35 (11%) reported that they had talked openly and felt supported. Among the 12 respondents who found the migration very or extremely difficult, 11 either stayed silent or filtered what they shared, and none of the 13 who selected loss of mastery reported talking fully openly. Fifteen respondents (43%) selected only technical forms of support, such as more training or practice time.

Did naming the experience help?

Retrospectively, 26 respondents (74%) said that terms such as cognitive overload, loss of mastery and migration trauma helped them make sense of what they had experienced. When asked whether naming the experience during the migration would have helped, re-

sponses were genuinely divided: 11 (31%) said yes, 13 (37%) said no, and 11 (31%) were unsure.

Two currencies of success

The findings of this study suggest that the migration did not fail; rather, success was incompletely understood. The organisation and staff may both have measured migration success accurately, but they were counting different things. The library measured success through institutional gains: timeline met, system working, services improved. Staff experienced success through personal gains and losses: new skills and motivation for some, but also loss of mastery, confusion and a long period of adjustment for many (Figure 1).

	INSTITUTION	STAFF
GAINS	Timeline met ✓ System works ✓ New functionality ✓	New skills Motivation for some
COSTS	Alma licence fee	Loss of mastery Confusion / anxiety Extended adjustment

Fig. 1. Two currencies of migration success: an interpretive summary of institutional and personal outcomes.

These two currencies – institutional and personal – are connected, but they are not interchangeable: personal loss cannot be paid with institutional gain. A working system does not automatically restore a person’s professional confidence or compensate for months of stress. As one respondent put it, "a red Bounty bar would have helped restore emotional balance" – recognition that sees the person, not only the project. If staff experience differed from the institutional record, why did it remain less visible? Three patterns in the responses point to an answer. First, a timing mismatch: the organisation declared success at go-live when the main technical goals had been met, while staff adjustment had only just begun and continued for months or years. By the time many respondents felt confident again, the organisation had moved on to other projects. Second, silence: few respondents talked openly and felt supported, and those who struggled most appeared to say the least. In this context, silence

could easily be mistaken for acceptance. Third, language: even in a survey about emotional experience, many named only technical needs, as if technical language were more familiar than words for personal or professional cost.

These are not separate causes but symptoms of one underlying problem: staff cost was never built into the definition of success. This is not an argument about bad leadership or intentional neglect. Rather, it reflects a structural blind spot in how the migration was organised and evaluated. As a member of the implementation team at my own institution, I can say plainly why staff experience was never tracked: there was no formal task for it. Go-live had a checklist; staff adjustment did not. This is not unusual: in one survey of North American Alma libraries, the majority reported no formal post-migration evaluation (1).

There was no clear answer to whether naming the experience during the migration would have helped; responses were divided. Shared language may support sensemaking during disruptive change (6), but the findings do not show that naming alone would have changed the migration experience. Its value may instead lie in making the human cost visible and discussable.

Looking ahead

For future migrations, the implication is not to replace technical metrics with staff-experience indicators, but to count the second currency separately, because it cannot be read from the first. Three questions seem worth asking: how long adjustment actually takes, whether staff have the words to describe what the change cost them, and whether they feel able to raise difficulties openly.

Staff experience may be assessed before, during and after go-live. Asking staff before the migration gives a starting point for comparison, while repeated follow-up is needed because adjustment may continue long after the formal project has ended (2). Measured only at go-live, it captures the start of adjustment, not its course.

As pilot work, this study also showed where the instrument and analysis would need strengthening before a larger study is undertaken.

Several limitations should be noted. The study is small

(n=35), limited to three Lithuanian academic libraries and reliant on retrospective self-report, with possible self-selection and recall bias. The questionnaire was self-developed and not previously validated. The analysis is exploratory and descriptive: the sample does not support testing relationships between responses, so comparisons between groups of respondents are offered as observations rather than findings. The findings cannot be generalised.

The patterns are nonetheless consistent enough to raise a question worth asking. Can we call a migration successful if we only measure half of the experience? Systems do not succeed on their own; people make them work.

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Conflict of interest statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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Integrating artificial intelligence competencies in Portuguese Academic Health Libraries: an exploratory study of librarians' perceptions

Luiza Baptista Melo (a) and Tatiana Sanches (a, b)

(a) Universidade de Évora, Centro Interdisciplinar de História, Culturas e Sociedades, Évora, Portugal

(b) Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal, Lisboa, Portugal

Abstract

Artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping higher education and information services, creating opportunities and challenges for academic libraries, particularly in health sciences. Because evidence-based healthcare depends on trustworthy information, librarians need AI competencies that include ethical awareness and critical evaluation. This empirical study investigates Portuguese academic health librarians' perceptions of AI integration into professional practice. A survey based on the Association of College and Research Libraries' AI Competencies for Academic Library Workers framework (2025) explored ethics, knowledge, evaluation, and AI applications. Responses from librarians revealed limited institutional implementation, insufficient training opportunities, and the absence of formal evaluation frameworks. Nevertheless, participants recognized AI's potential while emphasizing professional judgement, ethical responsibility, and evidence-informed health information practices.

Key words: artificial intelligence; medical librarians; health information services; knowledge, attitudes, practice.

Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) has rapidly become a significant influence on higher education, transforming into how information is created, accessed, evaluated, and communicated. The emergence of generative AI tools has accelerated these changes, affecting teaching, learning, research, and scholarly communication. Academic libraries are increasingly confronted with the need to adapt services, support users in navigating AI-generated information, and develop professional competencies that enable critical engagement with these technologies. The growing interest in AI within Library and Information Science is reflected in a rapidly expanding body of research. Hasan, Saifullah and Hashmi (1) identify several potential benefits associated with AI applications in libraries, including improved information retrieval, automation of repetitive tasks, and enhanced user services. At the same time, concerns remain regarding transparency, bias, privacy, reliability, and accountability. A structured review by Raghavendra, Mallya and Payini (2) demonstrates the

growing prominence of generative AI within professional literature, while Ayinde, Ebiefung and Oladokun (3) conclude that academic libraries worldwide are exploring AI adoption despite persistent challenges related to governance, professional training, and institutional readiness.

Within higher education, librarians are increasingly expected to support students and faculty in understanding the possibilities and limitations of AI tools. Recognizing these developments, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) published the *AI Competencies for Academic Library Workers* framework in 2025 (4), proposing four interconnected domains of competence: ethical considerations, knowledge and understanding, analysis and evaluation, and use and application of AI. These developments hold particular significance for health sciences libraries. Health librarians work in environments where information quality, evidence appraisal, and methodological rigor are central professional concerns. Their responsibilities frequently include supporting evidence-based practices,

Address for correspondence: Luiza Baptista Melo, Universidade de Évora, Centro Interdisciplinar de História, Culturas e Sociedades, Palácio do Vimioso, Largo do Marquês de Marialva, n.º 8, 7000-809 Évora, Portugal. E-mail: lbmelo@uevora.pt

conducting advanced literature searches, delivering information literacy training, and assisting research activities. The integration of AI into health information environments therefore raises important questions regarding professional preparedness and institutional readiness. While international studies have explored librarians' perceptions of AI, evidence from Portuguese academic health libraries remains insufficient. This study tries to address this gap by examining how librarians working in health sciences higher education institutions perceive AI-related competencies and their integration into library services.

Health librarianship and artificial intelligence competencies

Health librarianship has long been characterized by a strong emphasis on professional competencies, reflecting the complexity of healthcare information environments and the importance of evidence-informed decision-making. Unlike many other academic settings, health sciences libraries support users whose information needs are directly linked to research quality, professional education, and clinical methods (5).

The development of evidence-based healthcare reinforced the role of librarians as information specialists capable of locating, evaluating, and synthesizing reliable information. According to Robinson *et al.* (6), health librarians require a combination of disciplinary expertise, pedagogical competencies, and technological skills. These abilities enable them to support diverse user communities, ranging from students and academics to healthcare professionals.

Health information specialists perform a broad range of professional activities, including research support, information retrieval, knowledge synthesis, scholarly communication, instruction, and data-related services. Recent studies indicate that many of these functions are being transformed by artificial intelligence, particularly those associated with evidence retrieval, systematic reviews, and research workflows. Rather than replacing professional expertise, AI is shifting the role of health information specialists towards the critical evaluation, validation, and responsible integration of AI-assisted outputs into research and clinical information services (7, 8).

Current debates surrounding AI in libraries therefore

extend beyond questions of technological implementation. Hasan *et al.* (1) argue that effective adoption depends upon balancing operational benefits with ethical safeguards and professional oversight. Similarly, Ayinde *et al.* (3) identify training, governance, and institutional strategy as key determinants of successful implementation. The growing prominence of generative AI within professional literature, documented by Raghavendra *et al.* (2), further highlights the need for librarians to develop skills that facilitate critical engagement with emerging technologies.

From this perspective, AI literacy should not be viewed as an entirely new professional domain. Instead, it can be understood as an extension of competencies already associated with health librarianship, particularly those related to critical evaluation, evidence appraisal, ethical decision-making, and user education. The ability to assess the reliability, provenance, limitations, and potential biases of AI-generated outputs aligns closely with the traditional responsibilities of health information professionals.

Methodology

An exploratory study was conducted among Portuguese academic libraries serving health sciences education and research. Data was collected through a structured survey developed from the ACRL AI Competencies framework (4).

The instrument included four questions addressing ethical considerations, knowledge and understanding, analysis and evaluation, and use and application of AI. A fifth open-ended question invited participants to share perceptions, concerns, and expectations regarding AI integration within their institutions.

The evaluation was distributed via Google Forms between March and April 2026. The target population comprised the eight health sciences libraries identified in the Higher Education Libraries Directory maintained by the Portuguese Association of Librarians, Archivists and Information Professionals (BAD). Five valid responses were obtained, corresponding to 62.5% of the target population.

All respondents were female. One participant was under forty years of age, one was between forty-one and fifty years old, and three were over sixty. Given the small and specialized sample, the study adopts a de-

scriptive and interpretative approach. Quantitative responses were analyzed through frequency counts, while qualitative responses were examined using thematic analysis.

Findings

Participants were asked to assess the development of AI implementation across the four ACRL competency domains using a four-point scale: 1 (not considered at all); 2 (little considered), 3 (specifically considered) and 4 (always considered), data are presented in Table 1. Given the small number of participating libraries (n = 5), these findings should be interpreted as descriptive indicators of current practice rather than as statistically generalizable results.

Ethical dimension

Ethical issues associated with AI appear to receive little institutional attention. Three respondents indicated that they were unaware of any discussions or practices addressing matters such as privacy, transparency, or algorithmic accountability. One participant reported that these issues are occasionally considered, while another indicated they are rarely addressed. The qualitative comments reinforce this perception, particularly regarding the need for foundational AI literacy before implementation. As one participant observed, "Before using AI tools, introductory training on artificial intelligence is necessary and crucial (...) including how AI works, natural language processing, and the ethics associated with AI". This comment suggests that ethical considerations

Competency domains	Level of Implementation (Absolute frequency of the responses)			
	Not considered	Little considered	Specifically considered	Always considered
Ethics (In your library, to what extent are the ethical implications of using artificial intelligence tools considered, particularly regarding user privacy and algorithm transparency?)	3	1	1	0
Knowledge (What is the level of knowledge that the professionals in your library have about the main concepts and types of artificial intelligence applicable to the academic context?)	1	0	4	0
Evaluation (What criteria are used in your library to evaluate AI tools applied to information retrieval, content curation, or research support?)	0	4	1	0
Use (How are artificial intelligence tools integrated into your library's daily practices - e.g., customer service, cataloging, user training?)	0	3	2	0

Table 1. Level of AI implementation.

Qualitative analysis

Analysis of the open-ended responses revealed two dominant themes. The first concerns the absence of institutional discussion. Several participants stated that AI has not yet become the subject of formal reflection, strategic planning, or organizational debate within their libraries. The second theme relates to the role of academic staff. Respondents observed that discussions concerning AI frequently originate from faculty members, particularly in relation to student assignments and research activities. In some cases, librarians participate in these conversations, although the initiatives appear to be driven primarily by teaching staff rather than library services.

are perceived as an essential component of AI education but have not yet been systematically incorporated into institutional practice.

Knowledge dimension

Participants generally reported limited familiarity with AI concepts. Four respondents stated that some professionals possess basic knowledge, although no structured training opportunities are available. One participant characterized institutional knowledge of AI as minimal. These responses suggest that professional learning remains largely informal and dependent upon individual initiative. This perception is reflected in comments such as "Although I use AI (very little) and pro-

mote it widely, I still feel very confused and insufficiently prepared" and "There should be more training in this area; we are somewhat drifting, waiting to see what happens".

Evaluation dimension

The evaluation of AI tools emerged as one of the least developed areas. Four respondents reported that no specific criteria are used to assess AI applications. Only one participant indicated that informal criteria are occasionally employed on a case-by-case basis. The absence of evaluation frameworks is noteworthy given the importance of source reliability and evidence quality within health information environments. One participant also highlighted that AI implementation should be assessed differently depending on the context, noting that *"the questionnaire should distinguish between the use of AI in user services (...) and in technical/internal services (...). They are not at the same level of use"*. This observation suggests that future evaluation frameworks should consider the diversity of library functions when assessing AI maturity.

Use dimension

Three respondents reported that AI tools are not currently used in daily library activities. The remaining two described occasional use without systematic integration into services such as user support, cataloguing, or information literacy instruction. These findings indicate that AI adoption remains largely experimental. One participant described current practice as *"more reactive than preventive"*, adding that *"it is an area that frightens us somewhat, and it evolves too quickly for us to keep up"*. Another respondent pointed out that discussions about AI are already taking place within teaching, noting that *"several lecturers include reflections on AI in their courses, highlighting both its strengths and weaknesses"*. Together, these comments suggest that while AI is increasingly visible within the academic environment, its integration into library practice remains limited.

Discussion

The findings portray a sector at an early stage of engagement with artificial intelligence. Across all four competency domains proposed by the ACRL framework, participants reported limited implementation, scarce professional development opportunities, and the

absence of formal policies or evaluation procedures. Rather than reflecting resistance to AI, participants' comments suggest that limited adoption is largely associated with the absence of structured institutional support, leaving professional learning dependent on individual initiative and experimentation. The qualitative comments reinforce this interpretation, revealing uncertainty about AI, a perceived lack of preparedness, and repeated calls for structured professional training before wider implementation. These findings are consistent with previous research indicating that the adoption of AI in academic libraries is still in an emerging stage, often characterized by exploratory implementation rather than systematic use (9).

These results align with broader international trends. Ayinde *et al.* (3) found that many academic libraries are exploring AI applications while struggling to establish governance structures, competency frameworks, and institutional strategies. Similar concerns are identified by Hasan *et al.* (1), who highlight ethical issues, professional preparedness, and trustworthiness as recurring challenges associated with AI adoption. Participants in the present study expressed similar concerns, emphasizing the need for foundational AI training, ethical awareness, and clearer institutional guidance before AI can be integrated confidently into professional practice. In general, these results point to the need for academic libraries to move towards systematic, criteria-based evaluation performances, ensuring that AI tools meet standards of reliability, academic integrity, and user trust (10).

The findings are also consistent with the observations of Raghavendra *et al.* (2). Although generative AI has become a prominent topic within Library and Information Science literature, practical implementation remains unfair and frequently experimental. The health sciences context introduces additional considerations. Health librarians operate in environments where information quality directly influences educational and research outcomes. Consequently, AI adoption cannot be approached exclusively as a technological innovation. The evaluation of AI-generated information requires abilities closely associated with evidence-based procedures, including source verification, critical evaluation, methodological awareness, and ethical judgment (11). In this respect, the competencies

traditionally associated with health librarianship remain highly relevant. Robinson *et al.* (6) emphasized the importance of combining professional expertise with pedagogical and technological competencies, while Park (7) highlighted the growing significance of research support, data management, and clinical information services in the research about the theme. AI does not diminish the importance of these competencies; rather, it reinforces their value in increasingly complex information environments.

A particularly interesting aspect of the findings concerns the apparent gap between institutional teaching practices and library initiatives (12). Participants reported that AI-related discussions are typically initiated by academic staff, reflecting the increasing integration of generative AI into teaching and assessment. In contrast, libraries appear to engage with AI only after these developments have gained momentum. Hayes (12) argues that academic librarians must understand how AI is adopted within different disciplinary contexts to provide meaningful support for teaching and learning. From this perspective, the present findings suggest that health sciences libraries remain at an early stage of this transition, with limited evidence of strategic engagement in institution-wide AI initiatives. This interpretation is further supported by participants' own reflections, with one respondent observing that library actions are currently "more reactive than preventive", reflecting a perception that institutional responses have not kept pace with the rapid evolution of AI.

This situation presents both a challenge and an opportunity. Academic health libraries possess expertise in information evaluation, digital literacy, and evidence-based approaches that could contribute significantly to institutional discussions regarding responsible AI use. Participants themselves repeatedly identified the need for structured professional development, suggesting that strengthening AI-related competencies may enable librarians to assume a more active role in institutional governance, user education, and research support.

Conclusion

This exploratory study examined perceptions of artificial intelligence competencies among librarians working in Portuguese academic health libraries. The

findings indicate that AI integration remains at an early stage, characterized by limited implementation, scarce structured professional development, and the absence of formal institutional frameworks for ethical governance and evaluation. Rather than reflecting resistance to AI, participants' responses suggest a strong awareness of its growing relevance, accompanied by concerns about insufficient preparation and the need for clearer institutional guidance.

The study also highlights a gap between the increasing presence of AI in teaching and research and its comparatively limited integration into library practice. While academic staff appear to be driving many AI-related initiatives, libraries continue to adopt a predominantly reactive role, despite possessing expertise in information evaluation, evidence-based practice, and digital literacy that could support institutional AI strategies more proactively.

As AI becomes increasingly embedded within higher education, health librarians are likely to face expanding responsibilities related to information assessment, research support, and AI literacy. Responding to these demands will require sustained investment in professional development, institutional policies, and collaborative initiatives that integrate AI within established principles of evidence-based librarianship, ethical practice, and responsible information management.

Although limited by the small number of participating libraries, this study offers one of the first empirical insights into AI competencies among Portuguese academic health librarians. It also provides a foundation for future research involving larger samples and comparative international studies, contributing to the broader discussion on the evolving role of health librarians in AI-mediated information environments.

Acknowledgements

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Conflict of interest statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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Data governance and management in health: a scoping review protocol

Fernanda Farinelli (a), Márcio Victorino (a), Amanda Damasceno de Souza (b), Yoris Linhares de Souza (c), Ana Luisa Ferreira de Lima Bonifácio (a), Jessica Caroline Dos Santos Brito (a), Cláudio Vaz Torres (d), Thiago Gomes Nascimento (e)
 (a) Faculdade de Ciência da Informação, Universidade de Brasília (UnB), Brasília, Brazil
 (b) Programa de Pós-graduação em Tecnologia da Informação e Comunicação e Gestão do Conhecimento (PPGTICGC), Universidade FUMEC, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil
 (c) Programa de Pós-Graduação em Administração, Universidade de Brasília (UnB), Brasília, Brazil
 (d) Instituto de Psicologia, Departamento Processos Psicológicos Básicos, Universidade de Brasília (UnB), Brasília, Brazil
 (e) Programa de Pós-graduação Profissional em Administração Pública, Universidade de Brasília (UnB), Brasília, Brazil

Abstract

Health systems increasingly depend on reliable, interoperable, and secure data to support care, management, planning, and public policy. However, evidence on how Data Governance and Data Management are structured, implemented, and assessed in health organizations remains dispersed. This scoping review protocol describes the planned methods for mapping scientific and technical literature on Data Governance and Data Management in Health. The review will follow the Joanna Briggs Institute methodology and will be reported according to PRISMA-ScR. Searches will include scientific databases and grey literature sources. Study selection and data extraction will be conducted by at least two reviewers. The review is expected to identify models, practices, actors, barriers, benefits, and research gaps.

Key words: data management; health information systems; scoping reviews as topic; information management; hospital information systems.

Introduction

The digital changes of health systems have increased the volume, diversity, and strategic value of clinical, administrative, and institutional data. Health organizations depend on data to support care delivery, planning, regulation, surveillance, evaluation and decision-making. In this context, Data Governance and Data Management have become relevant fields for ensuring that data are available, reliable, secure, interoperable, and ethically used [1-3].

Data Governance refers to the structures, principles, policies, roles, responsibilities, and decision-making mechanisms that guide the use and management of data in organizations. Data Management concerns the planning, execution, and control of practices related to

data throughout their life cycle [3-5]. Although these concepts are distinct, they are closely related: governance defines direction, responsibilities and rules, while management operationalizes these definitions through processes, standards, technologies, and monitoring mechanisms [3, 6, 7].

In the health sector, the need for effective Data Governance and Data Management is intensified by the sensitivity of health data, the coexistence of multiple systems, the demand for interoperability, and the growing importance of digital health strategies [1, 2]. Poor data governance may affect data quality, information security, privacy protection, service integration, and evidence-based decision-making. In Brazil, the expansion of digital health initiatives, including the National

Address for correspondence: Amanda Damasceno de Souza, Universidade FUMEC, R. Cobre, 200, Cruzeiro, Belo Horizonte, MG, 30310-150, Brazil. E-mail: amandasd81@gmail.com.

Health Data Network, has also reinforced the importance of data integration, interoperability, and institutional coordination in the health sector [8, 9]. Several frameworks, maturity models, and guidelines address Data Governance and Data Management, including DAMA-DMBOK, the Data Governance Institute framework, the Data Management Maturity Model, and international recommendations on health data governance [3-7, 10]. However, the literature remains dispersed regarding how these models and practices have been applied, assessed, and sustained in health organizations.

This protocol presents the methodological planning of a scoping review on Data Governance and Data Management in Health. A scoping review is appropriate because the topic is broad, interdisciplinary, and marked by conceptual and methodological diversity [11]. The proposed review will map the available evidence, describe how the subject has been addressed in different institutional contexts, and, in addition, will identify models, practices, actors, barriers, benefits, and research gaps.

Objective and review questions

The objective of this scoping review is to map and analyze scientific and technical literature on Data Governance and Data Management in Health, identifying models, frameworks, practices, instruments, institutional actors, assessment mechanisms, barriers, benefits and research gaps.

The main review question is: *How have Data Governance and Data Management been addressed and implemented by entities operating in the health context?*

The specific questions are: What models, frameworks,

methodologies, instruments and implementation roadmaps have been used? What principles, policies, roles, responsibilities, processes and standards support Data Governance and Data Management in Health? What types of institutions and organizational contexts have been addressed? What indicators, assessment mechanisms or maturity models have been used? What barriers, benefits, gaps, and implementation factors are reported?

Methods and analysis

This scoping review will be conducted according to the Joanna Briggs Institute methodology for scoping reviews [11] and will be reported in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews, PRISMA-ScR [12]. The protocol is registered in the Open Science Framework, available at <https://osf.io/m384a>. Any methodological changes made after registration will be described and justified in the final review.

Study design

The methodological flow of the review is presented in *Figure 1*, and it is organized into six sequential stages. First, the search stage comprises the retrieval of records from scientific databases and grey literature sources. Second, reference management involves importing all retrieved records into Rayyan® [14] and removing duplicates. Third, screening consists of title and abstract assessment to identify potentially relevant records based on the eligibility criteria. Records clearly outside the scope of the review will be excluded. Records considered included, or potentially eligible

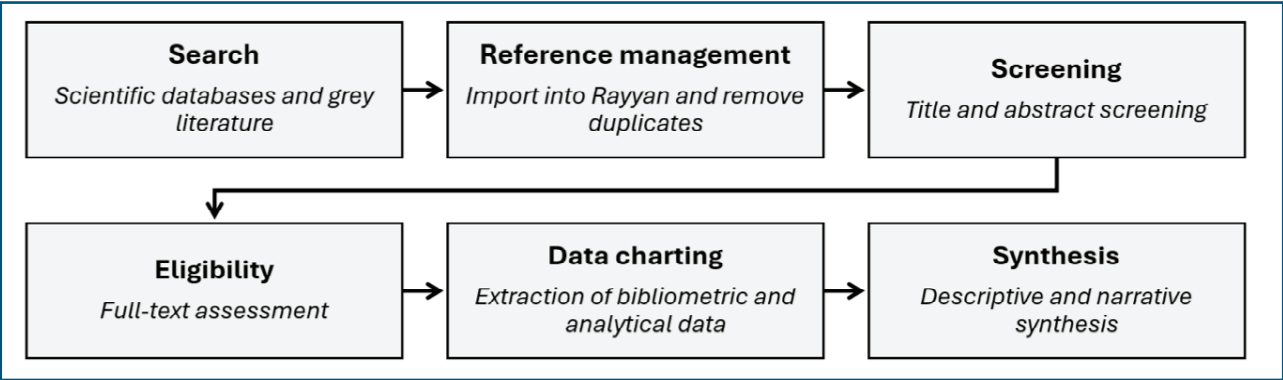


Figure 1. Methodological flow of the scoping review.

when there is insufficient information in the title and abstract, will proceed to full-text assessment. Fourth, the review will consist of full-text assessment of records retained after screening. At this stage, the eligibility criteria will be applied in greater detail to confirm final inclusion or exclusion. Reasons for exclusion at the full-text stage will be recorded and reported in the final review. Fifth, data charting will involve the extraction of bibliometric and analytical data from the included sources. Finally, synthesis will comprise descriptive analysis and narrative integration of the evidence mapped in the review.

Information sources and search strategy

The search strategy was developed according to the PRESS guideline [13] and the Joanna Briggs Institute recommendations for scoping reviews [11]. It was structured around three conceptual blocks derived from the Participants, Concept, and Context framework: health organizations, Data Governance, Data Management, and the health context. The general search logic combined terms related to these blocks using Boolean operators, as follows: (“data governance” OR “data management”) AND (organization* OR institution* OR hospital* OR clinic* OR laborator* OR “health insurance” OR “health department*” OR “health agenc*” OR “Ministry of Health”) AND (health OR healthcare OR “health care”).

This generic strategy was adapted to the syntax, field tags, controlled vocabulary, truncation rules, and filtering options of each database and information source. Searches were conducted in PubMed/MEDLINE, the Brazilian Virtual Health Library (BVS) database, Web of Science, Scopus, SciELO, SPELL, Oasisbr, and BASE. Grey literature was searched in Google Scholar, the Brazilian Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations, the CAPES Theses and Dissertations Portal, the Brazilian Ministry of Health website, and the ARCA/FIOCRUZ Institutional Repository.

The searches identified a total of 5,445 records. After importing the records into Rayyan, 1,281 duplicates were detected and removed, leaving 4,164 records for title and abstract screening. The complete search strategies for each database and grey literature source are available in the Open Science Framework as supplementary material. Reference lists of included studies will also be examined to identify additional relevant sources.

Eligibility criteria

Eligibility criteria were defined using the Participants, Concept and Context (PCC) framework, as recommended for scoping reviews [11]. The Participants component includes institutional entities operating in the health sector, such as hospitals, clinics, laboratories, health insurance providers, health departments, health agencies, ministries of health and other public or private health organizations. The Concept component includes Data Governance and Data Management, considered separately or in an integrated way. The Context component is the health sector, including public, private, and mixed health systems, at local, regional, national or international levels.

The review will include journal articles, full conference papers, theses, dissertations, technical reports, guides, manuals, institutional documents, and relevant grey literature. Publications in English and Portuguese, published from 2000 onward, will be considered. Eligible sources must explicitly address policies, structures, roles, responsibilities, processes, standards, instruments, frameworks, maturity models, assessment mechanisms or implementation practices related to Data Governance and/or Data Management in Health. The main inclusion and exclusion criteria are summarized in Table 1. These criteria will guide both title and abstract screening and full-text assessment.

Screening and eligibility screening procedure

All records retained after duplicate removal will be screened in Rayyan® [14]. The selection process will be conducted in two stages: title and abstract screening, followed by full-text eligibility assessment. Both stages will be performed by pairs of reviewers, independently and blinded to each other's decisions.

In the first stage, titles and abstracts will be assessed in Rayyan® based on the eligibility criteria summarized in Table 1. Each reviewer will classify records as Include, Exclude, or Maybe. Records classified as Include or Maybe will be retained for full-text assessment. Records classified as Exclude, after comparison of reviewers' decisions and resolution of disagreements, will not proceed to the eligibility stage. When the information available in the title and abstract is insufficient to determine eligibility, the record will be classified as Maybe and retained for full-text assessment.

Element	Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
Participants	Health institutions, hospitals, clinics, laboratories, health insurance providers, health departments, health agencies, ministries of health and other public or private health organizations.	Studies focused only on clinical, biomedical, epidemiological or laboratory analyses without an organizational or strategic approach to data.
Concept	Studies addressing Data Governance and/or Data Management, including policies, roles, responsibilities, processes, standards, frameworks, maturity models, instruments or assessment mechanisms.	Studies using “governance” or “data management” only generically, or focused only on software, algorithms or databases without institutional arrangements.
Context	Public, private or mixed health systems, at local, regional, national or international levels.	Studies outside the health context with no explicit comparison or adaptation to health organizations.
Types of evidence	Journal articles, full conference papers, theses, dissertations, technical reports, guides, manuals, institutional documents and grey literature.	Editorials, letters, interviews, opinion articles, comments, abstracts without full text and duplicates.
Limits	English and Portuguese; publications from 2000 onward.	Publications in other languages or before 2000.

Table 1. *Eligibility criteria based on participants, concept and context.*

After screening, the full-text files of records classified as Include or Maybe will be retrieved and imported into Rayyan® for eligibility assessment. In this second stage, the full texts will be assessed by pairs of reviewers using the same eligibility criteria, applied in greater detail. No data extraction will be performed at this stage. The assessment will verify whether each source explicitly addresses Data Governance and/or Data Management in an institutional health context, meets the eligibility criteria, and provides information relevant to the review questions.

The final decision for each full-text source will be recorded in Rayyan®. These records will support the preparation of the PRISMA-ScR flow diagram in the final review [12].

Data extraction/charting

Data extraction, also referred to as data charting in scoping reviews, will be performed after the full-text eligibility assessment. Only sources included after the eligibility stage will proceed to data charting.

Data will be charted using two complementary forms developed by the review team. The first form will collect bibliometric and descriptive data, including study identification, title, authorship, year of publication, document type, source title, database or source of retrieval, language, country or region, institutional affiliation, DOI or URL, author keywords and field of knowledge.

The second form will collect analytical data related to the review questions. Extracted information will include the objective of the study, problem or motivation, methodological approach, type of health institution or entity, organizational context, geographic scope, definitions of Data Governance and Data Management, models, frameworks, methodologies, instruments, implementation roadmaps, principles, policies, guidelines, processes, standards, roles, responsibilities, assessment mechanisms, maturity models, institutional actors, barriers, challenges, benefits, gaps and factors associated with implementation.

Data charting will be conducted by reviewers trained

in the use of the extraction forms. The extracted data will be checked for consistency, and disagreements or uncertainties will be resolved through discussion among the review team. When needed, an additional reviewer will be consulted. The final charted data will support both the descriptive characterization of the included sources and the narrative synthesis of findings.

Data synthesis

The extracted data will be synthesized descriptively and narratively. Bibliometric and descriptive variables will be summarized using absolute and relative frequencies, when applicable. Analytical data will be organized according to the review questions, with emphasis on models, frameworks, practices, institutional actors, assessment mechanisms, barriers, benefits and gaps related to Data Governance and Data Management in Health.

The synthesis will support the development of the Data Governance Implementation Guide for DATASUS and will also inform future articles reporting the findings of the scoping review. Results may be presented in tables, charts, figures and narrative summaries, according to the nature of the evidence identified.

Expected contribution

This scoping review is expected to provide an overview of how Data Governance and Data Management have been addressed, structured, implemented and assessed in health organizations. By mapping scientific and technical literature, the review may identify recurring models, frameworks, practices, institutional actors, assessment mechanisms, barriers, benefits and research gaps.

The findings may contribute to health information and library professionals by clarifying how data are treated as institutional information assets and how governance and management practices support data quality, interoperability, security, privacy, access and evidence-informed decision-making.

The synthesis will support the development of the Data Governance Implementation Guide for DATASUS, providing evidence to inform recommendations, organizational arrangements and implementation strategies. It will also inform future articles reporting the findings of the scoping review and discussing specific

dimensions of Data Governance and Data Management in Health.

Ethics and dissemination

Ethical approval is not required because this review will use published literature and publicly available documents. The findings will be disseminated through publication in a peer-reviewed journal, conference presentations and the Open Science Framework.UID/00057/2025.

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Conflict of interest statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

Statement on the use of AI

The generative artificial intelligence, ChatGPT-5.5 Instant, was used to support language revision, text organization, and refinement of search strategy wording. All methodological decisions, analyses, and final content were reviewed and approved by the authors, who take full responsibility for the manuscript.

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Letter from the President



Francesca Gualtieri

Library and Archives Rottapharm Biotech SpA, Monza, Italy
francesca.gualtieri@rottapharmbiotech.com

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As autumn settles in, I find myself still warmed by the energy of our 2026 Congress. It was a real joy to meet so many of you in person, to reconnect with old friends, and to welcome new colleagues into our community. The atmosphere in Antalya captured everything EAHIL stands for: openness, curiosity, and a shared commitment to advancing health information and knowledge.

I want to once again thank our Local Committee for their outstanding work and dedication. Their care and attention to every detail made the congress not just useful, but genuinely inspiring – from the scientific programme to the warmth of the welcome they gave us. It's an experience many of us will carry with us for a long time.

Building on that momentum, I'd like to share a few updates from the Board, and a few ways you can get involved.

A call for collaboration on our financial sustainability

Our Treasurer will shortly share a call for collaboration around the association's financial needs. Times have changed, and many of the activities that keep EAHIL running smoothly – like website management, IT support, and maintaining our member database – now require professional support that volunteer effort alone can't sustain.

This idea was warmly received at the General Assembly, and we hope you'll feel the same. If EAHIL has given you valuable connections and opportunities over the years, we warmly invite you to consider a personal voluntary contribution. Every gift, big or small, helps us sustain and grow the activities that benefit our whole international community.

The Editorial Board of the *Journal of EAHIL*, following the proposal of some EAHIL members and in accordance with the Diamond Open Access standards, is considering a transition from an advertising-based funding to a Subscribe-to-Open model (S2O). An online survey will be sent to all EAHIL members to gather their thoughts on this proposal which will help to increase the sustainability of *JEAHIL* in the future.

Moving our archive to a more sustainable solution

We're also moving our archive from Dropbox to a more cost-effective solution with more storage space. This will let us keep our files secure, reduce ongoing costs, and better support our community as it continues to grow.

Webinars on AI guidelines and the ethical use of AI

Looking ahead, we're planning a series of activities on AI guidelines and the adoption of ALA guidance on the ethical use of AI in health information work. These sessions will be a space to reflect together on the practical, ethical, and organisational sides of AI in our daily practice – and we'd love your voice in shaping them. Please share your thoughts and experiences with us by email (via the EAHIL distribution list), so we can build webinars around the real needs and examples from our community.

Our next chance to meet in person and continue this work will be the Groningen Meeting for EAHIL 2027. We can't wait to build on the connections made in Antalya and welcome even more colleagues into our shared projects.

Council renewal elections – we need you

This autumn, we'll be holding elections to renew our Council, and representation truly matters we want every country in our community reflected in our governance. We warmly encourage national groups and individual members to put forward candidates, to consider standing yourselves, and to take part actively in the vote. A diverse, geographically balanced Council helps us reflect the full richness of who we are as a community – and that starts with your participation.

Looking ahead

The reflections shared after EAHIL 2026 remind us of both the value of human connection and the importance of using new technologies responsibly in our field. As we carry forward the ideas and partnerships born in Antalya, let's keep people at the heart of our work, while embracing innovation with curiosity and care.

Thank you, as always, for your trust, your engagement, and your generosity. I'm truly looking forward to working alongside you in the months ahead – and I hope you'll join us in one, or several, of the ways above.

With warm regards,

Francesca Gualtieri

President, EAHIL (2025-2026)

Memories from the EAHIL 2026 Conference in Antalya: Building bridges together



Güssün Güneş

Chair of the EAHIL2026 LOC

Department of Information and Records Management İstanbul, Marmara University, İstanbul, Türkiye

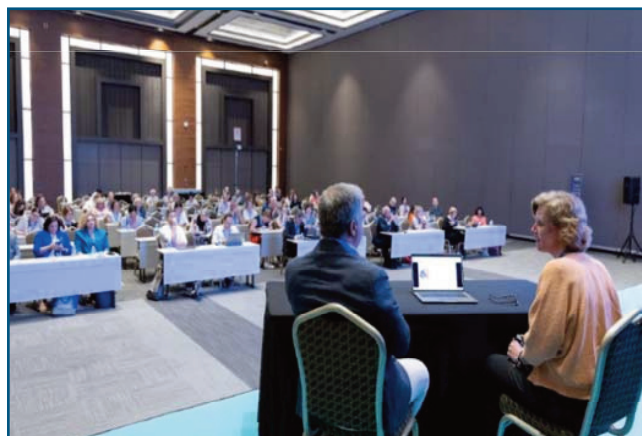
gussun.gunes@marmara.edu.tr

Hosting an EAHIL event in Türkiye for the third time in 15 years was a great source of pride for us. For nearly a year and a half, preparations for EAHIL 2026 became part of our daily lives, with countless emails, meetings, programme discussions, sponsor arrangements, and practical details. Then suddenly June arrived, and the names we had seen for months in emails and participant lists became real faces in Antalya.

Looking back, what remains most strongly is not the workload, but the people, conversations, friendships, and the sense that, for a few special days on the Mediterranean coast, we created a unique EAHIL community together.

FROM BOSTON TO ANTALYA: A CONFERENCE DREAM REALISED

In 2013, as a Cunningham Fellow, I attended a huge Medical Library Association (MLA) Conference in Boston and was impressed by the conference hotel model, where participants could attend scientific sessions, meet colleagues, and socialise in the same setting. Since then, the idea of one day hosting an international professional meeting in a similar environment had remained with me. When we decided to host EAHIL 2026 in Antalya, this model seemed particularly appropriate. Antalya is not only one of Türkiye's leading tourism destinations, but also an established congress city. Holding the conference at Rixos Sungate in Beldibi allowed us to bring together the scientific and social dimensions of the meeting in one place. From 8 to 12 June 2026, a long-held idea finally became reality.



EAHIL 2026 CONFERENCE, ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE



The LOC and IPC chose as the conference themes to reflect the rapid transformation of our profession, artificial intelligence, digital health, evidence synthesis, open science, new research infrastructures, and changing user expectations are reshaping both libraries and the roles of health information professionals.

For us, however, “bridges” meant more than technological change. They also represented connections between people, countries, professions, disciplines, and generations. EAHIL itself is one such bridge, bringing together colleagues from different institutional and cultural backgrounds to share knowledge, experience, and ideas.

Antalya was a natural setting for this theme. Türkiye has long been a geographical and cultural bridge between different civilisations, while Antalya brings together history, nature, and the Mediterranean. We wanted our colleagues not only

to attend a conference, but also to experience Türkiye, its hospitality, cuisine, culture, and landscape as part of EAHIL 2026.

A CONFERENCE UNDER ONE ROOF

As I mentioned earlier, the “conference and accommodation under one roof” model that had impressed me at MLA meetings seemed particularly well suited to Antalya. Antalya is not only one of Türkiye’s leading tourism destinations, but also a major congress city that regularly hosts large national and international events. Rixos Sungate, the accommodation hotel of Antalya Bilim University, offered us an ideal setting in which to bring this idea to life.

One of the most important decisions we made during the organisation process was to hold both the conference and the accommodation at the same venue, Rixos Sungate. In this way, we had the opportunity to bring to EAHIL the conference model I had experienced at MLA meetings, while also making Antalya’s identity as a tourism and congress destination part of the overall conference experience.



Located between the Mediterranean Sea and the mountains, the venue allowed participants to stay, meet, learn, and socialise in the same environment. This arrangement helped create the atmosphere we had envisioned from the very beginning. Conversations did not end when the sessions were over; they continued during coffee breaks, over lunch, in the exhibition area, and into the evening. Speakers who met during a session were able to continue exchanging ideas afterwards, while first-time EAHIL 2026 participants had many opportunities to meet and engage with more experienced members.

SCIENCE, INNOVATION, AND THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARIAN

EAHIL 2026's scientific programme was designed to ensure that the conference theme was reflected not only in its title, but throughout the programme itself. Across two days, 10 scientific sessions, 5 workshops, keynote presentations, and sponsor sessions addressed a wide range of topics, including artificial intelligence, evidence synthesis, systematic reviews, research support, health literacy, research data management, open access, and the changing professional roles of health librarians.

At the opening ceremony, EAHIL President Francesca Gualtieri, Chair of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) Güssün Güneş, and Chair of the International Programme Committee (IPC) Hamza Kandur welcomed the participants and highlighted the theme of EAHIL 2026, the preparation process, and the importance of the conference in fostering professional collaboration. This was followed by Dr Muhammet Şimşek's "The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Forensic Medicine: The Turkish Experience" and Prof. Dr Nevzat Özel's "From Library to TrustOps: Operating the Trust Layer for Clinical AI & Evidence", which explored artificial intelligence, trusted information, and transformation in healthcare from different perspectives.

One of the most striking aspects of the programme was the way it brought together traditional librarianship topics and the information services of the future. From hospital librarianship and health literacy to AI-



supported evidence synthesis, large language models, and emerging information retrieval tools, this diversity became one of the clearest expressions of the "Bridges to new horizons" theme within the scientific programme.

Sponsor presentations by Wolters Kluwer Health, Elsevier, EBSCO, Oxford University Press, AMBOSS, Taylor&Francis, Primal Pictures, Rayyan, MDPI, Bentham Science and TDNet added another dimension by introducing new products, platforms, and AI-supported information services relevant to the health information field.

EAHIL 2026 CONFERENCE, ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE

The workshops, meanwhile, offered participants opportunities not only to listen, but also to think, discuss, and practise together. Taken as a whole, the programme reminded us once again that the role of the health librarian is expanding rapidly. Librarians are no longer only professionals who provide access to information; they are increasingly becoming research partners, educators, evidence specialists, and trusted guides in navigating reliable information.

TOGETHER BY THE MEDITERRANEAN

One of the most enjoyable parts of EAHIL 2026 was welcoming colleagues who were attending EAHIL for the first time. The First Timers Welcome Reception, held on Tuesday evening at Rixos Sungate, brought together first-time attendees, members of the EAHIL Board, and the EAHIL 2026 Local Organising Committee.

Joining an international professional community for the first time can feel daunting, but EAHIL's openness and inclusiveness quickly help newcomers feel part of the community. With Turkish, Arabic, and English music, conversation, and dancing, the evening offered a warm introduction to EAHIL and to the Mediterranean atmosphere of Antalya.

Suggestions from EAHIL colleagues also helped shape the social programme. After seeing Antalya's wild horses in the conference promotional video, our American colleague Kristine suggested organising a viewing excursion. Her idea encouraged us to present Antalya not only through its sea and history, but also through its natural environment. We remained in contact with local villagers until the last moment to follow the horses' movements and organise the visit. Although the small group that joined the excursion did not see as many horses as hoped, the participants enjoyed meeting local people, spending time together, and experiencing a different side of Antalya.

We also wanted participants to experience the warmth and hospitality of Türkiye beyond the scientific programme. The Welcome Reception, held in the sponsor and exhibition area after the first full conference day, created an informal setting for participants and sponsors to meet and continue their conversations.

The Gala Dinner brought everyone together again in a more festive atmosphere. At the Seafood Restaurant, participants enjoyed Turkish and Greek music, dancing, and the tradition of writing wishes on plates before breaking them. We also sang Turkish songs together, and the evening continued with performances and dancing nearby.

These informal moments are an important part of any EAHIL meeting. Years later, we may



remember an excellent presentation or a useful workshop, but we also remember the person we met over breakfast, a conversation that continued after a session, the laughter at the Gala Dinner, and friendships that began unexpectedly. Antalya gave us many such memories.

THE TEAM BEHIND EAHIL 2026

No conference belongs to a single organiser. It is the result of many people, often unseen by participants, working together on a wide range of tasks towards a shared goal. As Chair of the Local Organising Committee, I feel very fortunate to have worked with colleagues who generously shared their time, experience, and energy throughout the process.

The International Programme Committee, chaired by Prof. Dr Hamza Kandur, brought together colleagues from Türkiye and many other countries and made a major contribution to shaping the scientific programme. The EAHIL Board and our valued colleagues across the EAHIL community supported us throughout the process with their experience, guidance, and encouragement. Our sponsors and exhibitors were also important partners in making the conference possible and contributed to the professional exchange throughout the meeting.

For this reason, the EAHIL Board's decision at the closing session to donate trees to the EAHIL Forest in Sivas on behalf of all LOC members was an especially meaningful and emotional gesture for us. Knowing that the many months of work behind EAHIL 2026 would be remembered through trees leaving a lasting mark in nature became one of the most special memories of the conference.

WHEN THE BRIDGE WAS FINALLY BUILT

"Bridges to new horizons" began as simply the theme of a conference. By the time we reached the closing session, however, we realised how quickly the week had passed; the days seemed to have flown by. At that moment, I felt that together we had truly experienced what those words meant.

During those days in Antalya, bridges were built between experienced professionals and first-time attendees, librarians and researchers, Türkiye and other countries, established professional practices and emerging technologies, and perhaps most importantly, between people.

When the final session ended and participants began leaving Rixos Sungate, those of us who had spent months organising the conference naturally felt a great sense of relief. At the same time, there was also a sense of sadness that something we had worked on for so long had suddenly come to an end.

Fortunately, EAHIL conferences do not really end when we say goodbye: the conversations continue, the collaborations continue, the friendships continue.

And every EAHIL meeting carries something forward to the next.

It was a great privilege for us to host the EAHIL community in Türkiye. We came to Antalya hoping to build bridges to new horizons. Looking back now, I believe we truly built those bridges together.



Memories from EAHIL Scholarship recipients

Jaana Van Overwalle

KU Leuven Libraries – 2Bergen

Leuven, Belgium

jaana.vanoverwalle@kuleuven.be

I am sincerely grateful to EAHIL for awarding me a scholarship to attend the EAHIL Workshop in Antalya. As someone who is still relatively new to the profession of health information specialist, this opportunity was both exciting and incredibly valuable. The conference allowed me to learn from experienced colleagues, expand my professional network, and gain new insights that I can bring back to my work at KU Leuven.

One of the highlights was the workshop on developing search hedges, led by Emily Brennan, Rachel Whitney and Lynn Kysh. As a beginning information specialist, I found this course particularly enriching. It provided me with practical knowledge and a deeper understanding of how carefully designed search filters can improve the quality and efficiency of literature searches. I left the course with new skills and greater confidence in my expertise.

Another session that I enjoyed was Karlijn van Loon's workshop on translating search strategies using large language models. The workshop combined innovative ideas with hands-on exercises, making it both informative and engaging. It was fascinating to explore how emerging AI technologies may support our work while also discussing their limitations and the importance of critical evaluation.

Several presentations also stood out to me such as using artificial intelligence for supplementary searching, which offered thought-provoking perspectives on how AI can complement traditional search methods. I was equally interested in the presentations on ASReview and OpenAlex. These sessions demonstrated how rapidly our field continues to evolve and how new tools and databases are creating opportunities for more broader and efficient research support.

I also had the opportunity to present my own findings about OpenAlex. Sharing these experiences with colleagues and receiving feedback was particularly rewarding. I appreciated the chance to discuss OpenAlex with Dutch colleagues and learn more about the analyses they have conducted and the decisions they have made regarding its implementation. These conversations demonstrated the strength of the EAHIL community and highlighted the value of international collaboration. I hope to continue exchanging knowledge and working together with colleagues from the Netherlands and the wider EAHIL community in the future.

Beyond the scientific programme, the conference was wonderfully organised. The accommodation, food and social activities were all excellent. The musical entertainment during the gala dinner created a warm and festive atmosphere and contributed to many enjoyable conversations and new connections.

I would like to thank EAHIL, the organisers and the scholarship sponsors for making this experience possible. I return home inspired, motivated and eager to apply the knowledge I gained in Antalya. I very much look forward to meeting the EAHIL community again at a future conference.

Use of AI tools: This report was prepared with the assistance of Microsoft Copilot for language support and text drafting. All factual content, personal reflections, and final revisions were reviewed and approved by the author.



Memories from EAHIL Scholarship recipients

Carolina João Andrade

NOVA Medical School, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
carolina.andrade@nms.unl.pt

As an early-career medical librarian, receiving an EAHIL scholarship to attend the conference in Antalya was a truly special opportunity to broaden my perspective on the profession. In my application, I wrote that one of my main goals was to connect with peers, not only to learn as much as possible, but also to spend time with people who share the same sense of purpose: helping to bridge the gap between people and the information they need, and supporting the creation and sharing of knowledge in an ethical, transparent, inclusive, and responsible way.

The reality exceeded my expectations.

It is easy to feel inspired in a place like Antalya, with its beautiful setting between the Mediterranean Sea and the mountains. The scenery, combined with the warmth and hospitality of the local organising team, created the perfect atmosphere for learning, sharing ideas, and building new connections.

One of the highlights of the conference was the opportunity to meet colleagues from across Europe, the United States, and the Middle East. Although we work in different institutions and countries, many of us face similar challenges in our daily work. Conversations over coffee, between sessions, and during social events quickly turned into exchanges of ideas, experiences, and practical solutions.

The workshops deserve a special mention. What struck me most was that the learning did not come only from the workshop facilitators. Every participant brought their own perspectives, experiences, and practical insights, which enriched the discussions. I often left those sessions feeling that, as soon as I returned to my library in Lisbon, I would have new tools, techniques, and ideas ready to put into practice.

The conference also offered an opportunity to present the work of my library team and in discussions on evidence synthesis and the integration of AI into library and research workflows. These conversations were particularly valuable, as they highlighted the opportunities (but also the limitations) that AI brings to our profession. Sharing experiences and receiving feedback from such a knowledgeable and supportive community was both encouraging and motivating. It reinforced the feeling that professional growth is not achieved in isolation but through dialogue, collaboration, and openness to learning from others.

Beyond the academic programme, the social events played an important role in building connections. The conference dinner was a memorable celebration of Turkish culture, with traditional music, circle dances, and the surprisingly therapeutic custom of breaking plates.

Perhaps the most lasting outcome of the conference has been the sense of belonging to a network. Since returning to Lisbon, I have already exchanged emails with several colleagues I met in Antalya. Knowing that these connections remain active creates a reassuring feeling: there is now a community of professionals whom I can approach for advice, support, or collaboration. More importantly, it reminds me that librarianship is built on generosity, mutual assistance, and a shared commitment to advancing knowledge for the benefit of others.



Annarita Barbaro

Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy
annarita.barbaro@iss.it

Dear colleagues,

welcome back to my column! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and had the chance to relax, recharge, and enjoy some well-deserved time off before the busy fall season begins. The landscape of scholarly communication continues to evolve rapidly, bringing new tools, practices, and challenges for libraries and information professionals. My selection highlights a few recent developments, including Clarivate's new EndNote Fusion platform, Library Carpentry's training resources, and webinars exploring the role of libraries in supporting open access publishing without author charges and the growing use of Artificial Intelligence in library workflows. These initiatives offer interesting insights into how libraries are adapting to – and helping shape – changing Open Science environment. Enjoy!

FROM THE WEB

- **EndNote Fusion to unify Clarivate's reference management tools**

Clarivate has announced EndNote Fusion, a new cloud-based reference management platform that will gradually replace RefWorks by combining its collaborative features with the advanced capabilities of EndNote. Existing RefWorks users will be migrated to the new platform without losing their references, folders or established workflows. EndNote Fusion incorporates AI-powered features introduced with EndNote 2025, including the automatic extraction of key takeaways from articles, journal recommendations, and enhanced tools for working with PDFs and citations. The transition is intended to simplify reference management for researchers, students and librarians by bringing Clarivate's citation management services together on a single modern platform and reducing the need to maintain separate products.

- **Library Carpentry**

Library Carpentry is a global community that teaches software and data skills to people working in libraries and other information-related roles. It offers core and extended courses designed to help librarians develop the skills needed to support Open Science, including lessons on Tidy Data, OpenRefine, and Data Management Plans. Course materials are freely available online under a CC BY license, allowing users to study them independently or adapt and reuse them for teaching and training purposes.

- **Outcomes of the Annual Conference of the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR)**

The 2026 Annual Conference of the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR), held from 1 to 3 June at the University of Minho in Braga, brought together participants from several countries to discuss the future of repositories within the Open Science ecosystem. The conference highlighted the increasingly central role of OA repositories, driven by stronger research funder policies, their growing integration into research assessment, and renewed interest in digital sovereignty. At the same time, participants acknowledged a number of ongoing challenges, including bot-generated traffic that can disrupt repository services, limited technical support, and difficulties in securing stable, long-term funding.

COAR also announced several priority initiatives, including:

- publishing seven evidence-based narratives by the end of 2026 to demonstrate the value of repositories and strengthen advocacy efforts;
 - developing requirements for the use of Artificial Intelligence and next-generation discovery technologies, with particular attention to supporting machine-learning applications;
 - improving the discoverability of multilingual content through the establishment of a new working group and the development of a dedicated roadmap.
- **OASPA webinar on libraries and open access publishing without author charges**

On June 10th, the Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA) hosted a webinar exploring the role of libraries as collective actors in supporting open access publishing without author charges. The recording, resources shared by the speakers, and responses to questions that could not be addressed during the live session are available [online](#). The webinar attracted considerable interest, with numerous questions submitted both before and during the event. In response, OASPA organized a follow-up webinar focusing on open access advocacy, knowledge sharing, and communication. Held on 15 July, the follow-up webinar is also available [online](#).
- **Two webinars on AI and libraries by the IFLA AI SIG**

I would like to draw your attention to two recent webinars hosted by the IFLA Special Interest Group (SIG) on Artificial Intelligence. The first, *Transforming library workflows through AI agents*, explored how agentic AI can support the analysis of historical documents. The recording is available on YouTube: https://youtu.be/OjSEE81-mAY?si=sMi_tGF7NX5Aq3sm. The second webinar, *Two approaches to using AI in cataloguing*, presented two different applications of AI in bibliographic work. Hui Ling, from the National Library Board of Singapore, presented SGCAT, a custom GPT prototype developed to streamline the creation of bibliographic metadata and improve the efficiency of delivering library materials to patrons. Mona Lehtinen, from the National Library of Finland, introduced Annif, an automatic subject indexing tool. The recording is available on YouTube: https://youtu.be/LNDQ8NTChcE?si=iMB_tJZzgLSan5dt

READING SUGGESTIONS

- O'Connor M. [We all have a story to tell: why librarians should write about and share what they do](#). Health Sciences Libraries Journal. 2025;1(2):3-6.
- Madsen DØ, Silva ES. [Teaching citation in the age of generative AI: rethinking research literacy, academic integrity, and epistemic responsibility](#). The Journal of Academic Librarianship. 2026;52(4):103267.
- Spennemann DH, Oddone K. [What do librarians look like? Stereotyping of a profession by generative AI](#). Journal of Librarianship and Information Science. 2026;58(2):1183-99.
- Michalak R, Ellixson D. [Reimagining library FAQs with generative AI: a case study in metadata optimization and user-centered design](#). Information Services and Use 2026;46(1-2):17-27.

SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS

14th Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference (EALC 2026) October 22-23, Astana, Kazakhstan

The conference theme is "Library as a Dialogue Hub: Bridging Communities Through Conversations". The program will focus on current trends in the development of academic libraries, the integration of innovative technologies, and the strengthening of international collaboration within the global library community. Further details and registration information are available at <https://library.nu.edu.kz/ealc>

PUBLICATIONS AND NEW PRODUCTS

Open Access Week 2026

October 19-25, everywhere

The theme of this year's OA week is "The Cost of Knowledge" and challenges us to consider the financial, human, and environmental costs of creating, sharing, and sustaining knowledge – particularly when these costs are driven by private rather than public interests. More information about the week is available at openaccessweek.org. The official hashtag for the week is #OAWeek.

Cochrane Colloquium Krakow 2026

December 8-10, Krakow, Poland

The 2026 Colloquium will provide space to reflect, connect, and collectively explore how evidence can best respond to emerging challenges and opportunities while remaining rigorous, transparent, inclusive, and trusted. More info at <https://colloquium-2026.cochrane.org/>

Please feel free to contact me (annarita.barbaro@iss.it) if you have any further suggestion about initiatives or events you would like to promote

Editorial Board

CHIEF EDITOR: Federica Napolitani Cheyne
Scientific Communication Unit, Istituto Superiore di Sanità,
Viale Regina Elena 299, I-00161 Roma, Italy
• Tel: +39 06 4990 2945
• E-mail: federica.napolitani@iss.it

Annarita Barbaro
Servizio Conoscenza, Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Viale Regina Elena 299, I-00161 Roma, Italy
• Tel: +39 06 4990 6797
• E-mail: annarita.barbaro@iss.it

Gerhard Bissels
Balberstrasse 80 | 8038 Zürich, Switzerland
• Tel: +41 32 621 59 60
• E-mail: gerhard.bissels@posteo.ch

Fiona Brown
The Lady Smith of Kelvin Veterinary Library, Royal (Dick)
School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, Easter
Bush, Midlothian
EH25 9RG, Scotland, UK
• Tel: +44 131 650 6176
• E-mail: F.Brown@ed.ac.uk

Leeni Lehtiö
Turku University Library, FI-20014 Turun yliopisto, Finland
• Tel: +358 29 450 2444/+358 50 564 2840
• E-mail: leeni.lehtio@utu.fi

Maria-Inti Metzendorf
Institute of General Practice, Medical Faculty, University of
Düsseldorf, Moorenstr. 5, 40225 Düsseldorf, Germany
• Tel +49 211 81 04575
• E-mail: maria-inti.metzendorf@med.uni-duesseldorf.de

David Ožura
Strokovna knjižnica, Onkološki inštitut, Zaloška cesta 5,
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
• Tel: +386 1 587 93 73
• E-mail: dozura@onko-i.si

Michelle Wake
UCL School of Pharmacy, 29-39 Brunswick Square,
London WC1N 1AX, United Kingdom
• Tel: + 44 (0)20 77535833
• E-mail: m.wake@ucl.ac.uk

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Instructions to Authors are available online at www.eahil.eu. For further information please contact Federica Napolitani, Chief Editor of *JEAHIL* federica.napolitani@iss.it

Editorial layout and pagination: **De Vittoria srl**, Rome, Italy

EAHIL Executive Board (2025-2027)

President **Francesca Gualtieri**
Rottapharm Biotech s.r.l., via Valosa di Sopra 9
20900 Monza, Italy
• Tel: +39 9066091
• E-mail: francesca.gualtieri@rottapharm-biotech.com

Vice President **Alicia Fátima Gómez Sánchez**
TU Wien Bibliothek
Resselgasse 4, A-1040 Wien, Austria
• Tel +43 1 58801-44101
• E-mail: alicia.gomez@tuwien.ac.at

Deputy vice-President and Treasurer (co-opted) **Aoife Lawton**
Health Service Executive Ireland
Dr. Steevens' Library, Dr. Steevens' Hospital,
Dublin 8, IRELAND.
• Tel: 0876831498
• E-mail: Aoife.lawton@hse.ie

Co-opted Past President **Maurella Della Seta**
formerly, Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Viale Regina Elena 299, I-00161 Roma, Italy
• E-mail: maurella.dellaseta@gmail.com

Treasurer **Marion Heymans**
Zuyderland Medical Center
Dr H. van der Hoffplein 1, 6162 BG
Sittard-Geleen | Henri Dunantstraat 56419
PC Heerlen, The Netherlands
• Mob. 0031 6 13073056
• E-mail: m.heyman@zuyderland.nl

Secretary **Katri Larmo**
Terkko - Meilahti Campus Library, P. O. Box 61
Haartmaninkatu 4) 00014 University of
Helsinki, Finland
• Tel: +358 2941 26629
• E-mail: katri.larmo@helsinki.fi

Scholarships and Sponsorship Officer **Güssün GÜNEŞ**
Marmara University, Yerleşkesi 34722
Kadıköy – İstanbul, Türkiye
• Tel: 0216 777 00 00
• E-mail: gussun.gunes@marmara.edu.tr

Systems Administrator (co-opted) **Witold Kozakiewicz**
Information and Library Centre
Medical University of Lodz
Muszynskiego 2
90-151 Lodz, Poland
• Tel: +48 42 272 54 01
• E-mail: witold.kozakiewicz@umed.lodz.pl

Communication Officer **Mala K Mann**
Specialist Unit for Review Evidence (SURE)
Cardiff University
Neuadd Meirionnydd, Heath Park
Cardiff CF14 4YS, UK
• Tel: +44 (0) 29 20 687913
• E-mail: mannmk@cardiff.ac.uk

Deputy Systems Admin. and Deputy Comm. Officer **Valeria Scotti**
Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo
Via Golgi 19, 27100 PAVIA
• Tel: +39 382-503561
• E-mail: v.scotti@smatteo.pv.it

JEAHIL Editor in Chief **Federica Napolitani Cheyne**
Scientific Communication Unit,
Istituto Superiore di Sanità
• Tel: +39 06 4990 2945
• E-mail: federica.napolitani@iss.it

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